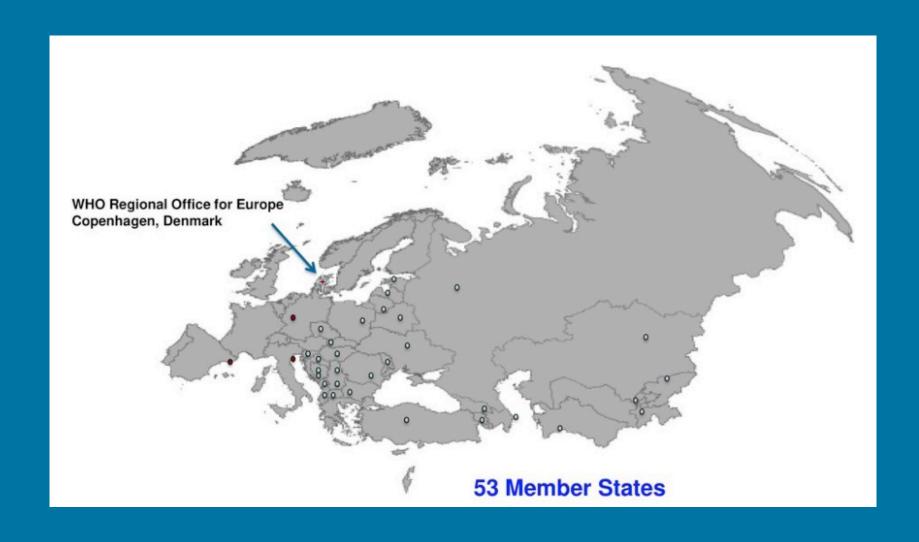


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Disability, Rehabilitation, Palliative and Longterm care in the WHO European Region









... encompasses all organizations, people and actions aiming to promote, maintain or improve wellbeing, health and functional ability for individuals with limitations in intrinsic capacity (WHO, 2021).

Care services should be delivered in an **integrated and person-centred manner along a continuum of care** that includes preventive, promotive, rehabilitative, curative, assistive care, palliative care, as well as carer support.

Such care activities span the boundaries between health, long-term care and social protection systems – **integrated delivery of care requires coherent policies and processes across the three sectors**



LTC systems struggling before the pandemic

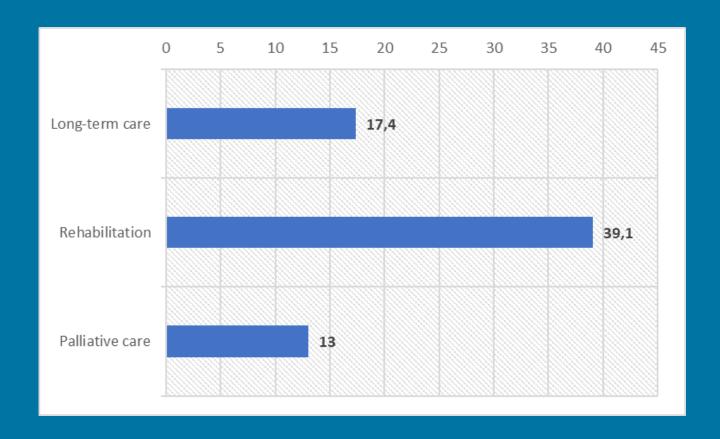
European LTC systems have faced a common set of challenges over the last decade:

- Large availability gaps particularly in community settings and rural areas
- Low financial protection
- Financial sustainability while maintain care quality and diversifying provision
- Workforce stability and professionalization & support to informal caregiving

The lack of progress towards more sustainable solutions has left LTC systems vulnerable and unprepared to react to a shock like the Covid-19 pandemic

The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on continuity of LTC service provision in the European region





Share of countries reporting disruptions of more than 5% to care services

Source: WHO Pulse survey 2nd Round

Strengthening care provision in the aftermath of the pandemic

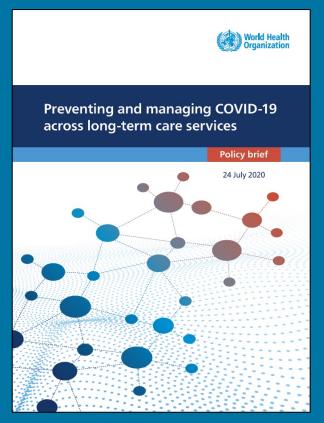


The team at WHO Europe is working to support countries to strengthen long-term care provision with a focus on:

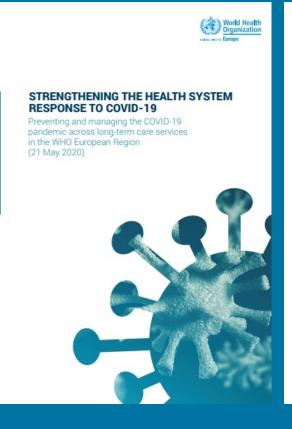
- Managing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Assessing and improving integrated care delivery
- Supporting cross national learning and the exchange of information
- Providing customized technical support

WHO tools & guidance on LTC systems & COVID











By: Margrieta Langins, Natasha Curry, Klara Lorenz-Dant, Adelina Comas-Herrera and Selina Rajan

pre-existing problems in the long-term care sector. Based on examples collected from the COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (HSRM and the International Long-term care Policy Network (LTCcovid), this article aims to take stock of what countries have done to support care homes in response to COVID-19. By learning from the measures taken during the first wave, governments and the sector itself have an opportunity to put the sector on a stronger footing from which to strengthen long-term care systems.

Keywords: Long-term Care, Care Homes, Integrated Health Care Systems, Workforce, COVID-19

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Introduction

Long before COVID-19, care home across the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region were facing several challenges. For staff, families and residents of care home these challenges and gaps in the system have been all too obvious. The long-term care (LTC) sector was already a myriad of financial, staffing and operational difficulties in most countries before the pandemic, and it has been hit badly, with as many as 47% of all COVID-19 related deaths happening among care home residents. However, the impact has not been uniform within or between countries, which raises the question of whether some of these

losses were avoidable. This article aims to take stock of what countries have done within care homes in response to COVID-9 in order to place the sector on a stronger footing from which to face future outbreaks. It also reflects on the importance of underlying structures and features in different countries and how the context into which a similar set of measures are introduced are likely to impact on how effective they are.

Key challenges predating COVID-19

Although every country's LTC system is different, there are a number of common challenges across the WHO

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WHO tools to support the development of an integrated continuum of services

















Framework for countries to achieve an integrated continuum of long-term care



Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development





OBJECTIVE 4 - INVEST IN STRONG, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

- 4.1 Increase all investments in health systems, particularly in those parts of systems that have traditionally attracted fewer resources
- 4.2 Invest in and strengthen the health workforce supporting health and care workers throughout their careers
- 4.3 Reassess and strengthen the links between health and social care in the light of experiences during the pandemic, with the goal of increasing integration between them
- 4.4 Prioritise prevention of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and scaling up of investment in public health capacities



Knowledge transfer & Technical support

WHO Europe LTC Forum - Monthly meeting of country representatives and experts from throughout the European region, dedicated to:

- 1. Discussing topics of broad interest for long-term care delivery and organization
- 2. Exploring and reflecting on policies and measures that are being pursued
- 3. Emphasizing country case studies and experiences

Requests for providing customized technical support over the next biennium from 10 countries in the region & ad-hoc requests for information and support, on a broad range of topics

The WHO Europe team will be actively working over the next years on:

- Measuring & improving quality or care (in facilities & the community)
- Improving financial protection and equity in access to care
- Sustainability and resilience of care systems investing in the care workforce and developing skills and competencies



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